

Eckerd Academy features an on-campus, accredited school that is part of a comprehensive educational program. Our educational program provides a positive, nurturing and challenging educational environment for youth who have difficulty functioning in a traditional school setting. For many of the youth that we serve, underlying emotional issues negatively affect their academic performance. At Eckerd Academy, our certified educators partner with our counselors and parents in developing an individualized academic plan that focuses on each child's specific academic issues and works hand-in-hand with his therapeutic treatment plan.

### Individualized Attention for Each Child

Our educational model combines experiential learning (learning by doing), classroom instruction, and individual and small group instruction to meet the individual needs of each child. The model supports a low-student-to-teacher ratio, which means increased individualized attention and the ability to tailor the most effective approach to educating your child.

### Highly Trained, Highly Committed, Certified Teachers

Our teachers are state-certified and have extensive training. Many have completed additional training to meet the needs of children with learning disabilities or other academic challenges. They are facilitators, guiding children to explore new experiences, reflect on what they are learning, draw their own conclusions and integrate what they have learned into future experiences. Our dedicated teachers thrive on helping each child develop an improved attitude toward learning and education, as well as succeed academically.

### State-of-the-Art Technology in Instruction Settings

Although our setting is somewhat rural, our students have access to the latest in technology. Our campus features a well-equipped and on-line computer lab that the students utilize to further their education. Students also visit the on-campus library twice per week to supplement their studies or for recreational reading.

### Individual and Small Group Instruction

Many of the youth we serve have experienced limited success in traditional classroom settings. They seem to thrive, however, with our one-on-one, small group and peer instruction approach. All children who need additional attention are provided one-on-one remediation both during and outside of small group sessions. Classroom behaviors and academic skills for traditional classrooms are also practiced and reinforced to ensure success when they return to their community schools.

### Assessment Driven/Individualized Academic Planning

Upon entering the program, each student is evaluated using the Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement. Assessment results are used to develop an individualized academic plan for each child, including addressing special education needs. Staff members continually evaluate progress and modify instruction to accommodate each child's preferred learning style. Individualized academic goals are intended to successfully transition each child to a home school, high school graduation, GED preparation, college, and employability exploration or career placement, when appropriate. Upon graduation from Eckerd Academy, students are re-evaluated to precisely measure their academic progress. Our typical student averages reading and math gains of more than two years.

### Well-Rounded, Accredited Curriculum

Our curriculum is aligned with all state and national Department of Education guidelines. Courses focus on English, math, science, social studies, reading, health, PE and the arts. Students also receive instruction in independent living, home economics, community service and current events. Through individual and small group instruction provided in a variety of indoor and outdoor settings, students typically receive five hours of instruction daily.

Course objectives are taught through experiential and thematic instruction. Experiential learning is learning by doing and thematic instruction is the presentation of course objectives through broad topics or themes of student interest. High-interest activities that complement the theme give youth the opportunity to apply their learning and increase their interest in the curriculum. Opportunities for learning are not confined by schedules, environment or setting. Everything in the daily life of the child has potential to be an educational experience. "Teachable moments" are integrated throughout the entire day's activities. Many students leave our programs with a renewed enthusiasm for learning.

Eckerd Academy is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children (COA), and Praesidium.

### Course Credits & Promotion

Students can earn up to a maximum of eight (8) academic credits per school year and an additional two (2) credits during the summer term. Students through grade 8 may be promoted to the next highest grade at the end of the spring semester or summer semester, providing that they have completed four courses with a grade of 70% or higher, and have been enrolled in the course for one school year, or 180 school days.

Students in grades 9 and above may be promoted to the next highest grade at the end of the spring semester or summer semester, providing that they have earned six credits at the end of 9th grade (including one credit for both English and mathematics) or the equivalent for grades 10, 11, and 12. A single credit may be earned by completing one course with a grade of 70% or higher, if the student has been enrolled in the course for one school year, 180 school days, or 150 clock hours.

If a student was enrolled in a course at another educational facility prior to entering the program, the work from that course may be used to meet promotional requirements. The opportunity to earn credit for various specialized high school courses will be determined on an individual basis.